

October 5, 1962

Professor Francis O. Schmitt
Department of Biology
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Schmitt:

I especially appreciate the courtesy of your writing me at length. (I am becoming rather allergic to long distance phone calls, albeit they are sometimes unavoidable.) In brief, I

1. applaud the vigor of your interest in pushing neurobiology to a new plane and would like to remain well informed of your activity. However, I would not generally encourage such diversions of the university's functions. Why not use the same effort to make the university a better place for such scholarly work?
2. regret that I am unable to attend your next session in November.
3. will reflect on the possibility of a formal affiliation as an associate -- but doubt what this can add to the picture, as my opportunities for personal visits would be quite infrequent.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL:edf

P.S. Thank you for the book you sent some time ago. I privately believe the connection between memory and sequential nucleic information is less direct than most of the participants think, but some experimental decision on questions like this should be coming along during the near future.